along a difficult coast, the lighthouses which line it. One, he finds, has a steady white light, another is intermittent, a third flashes once every five or ten seconds, and a fourth is revolving, and shows alternately a red and white light. For his special purposes, the sailor is satisfied when he has observed these appearances of the lighthouses. He sees, for instance, a light-house which shows alternately a red and white light every two minutes, and he ascertains, by inspection of a nautical almanac, that it is planted on a certain rock. On all future occasions, the very sight of that same alternating light is sufficient to indicate at what part of the coast he is. But there is a person of an inquiring turn of mind, or a mechanic sailing in the same vessel, and he will not be satisfied with these mere observations.

Determined to ascertain the cause of the evident phenomena, he would make inquiries as to the shape and structure of the lighthouse, as to the metal and glass, and the light and machinery employed in it. This man may arrive at farther knowledge than the mariner possesses, and knowledge that may be useful for other purposes.

Now, we have here a picture of the method which the mind commonly pursues in its inquiries into the works of God. It first observes and generalizes its observations, as the mariner watches the lights beaming in the dark news, and groups them into the various lighthouses. But the inquiring spirit will not rest satisfied with this. Even for practical purposes, it finds it useful not only to know the general fact, but also the cause from which it has sprung. And *in* all speculative inquiries as to the production of any event, it knows that a general rule, while it may be eminently useful, is yet no explanation, and it seeks for those antecedent circumstances which have produced the result,

and which will produce it again.

But our object in bringing this distinction under notice is to show that nature abounds in orderly facts and results, which mankind observe, and are enabled in consequence to suit themselves to the world in which they dwell, just as the mariner, by observing the regular flashing of the alternate lights, can ascertain at what part of the coast he is. Our farther, and indeed especial, object in to show that these orderly results all imply a multiplicity of ingenious arrangements, just as in the lighthouse it is implied, that the light be adjusted to the silver that reflects